

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-02 SR-02 ORM-01 VO-03

SCA-01 SY-05 INSE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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R 211408Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3390

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 4233

EO 11652:GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, IV, PDIP, UNH R

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR'S PLANS

REF: A) ABIDJAN 3968, B) ALGIERS 1145, C) PARIS 12324

SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST IS PLANNING TO CLOSE MISSION, TURN OVER PROPERTY TO GOIC OR ALGERIAN EMBASSY AND DEPART FROM HERE MAY 30. WHILE HE IS SEEKING ASYLUM IN UNITED KINGDOM, HIS CHANCES ARE NOT PROMISING AT THIS TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: WHAT CAN U.S. OFFER IF UK TURNS HIM DOWN? END SUMMARY.

1. AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR NGUYEN-VAN-LOC, GOING BACK TO APRIL 30, HIS CURRENT PLANS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. HE INTENDS TO CLOSE OUT ALL ACCOUNTS, PAY ALL BILLS, RELEASE PERSONNEL AND DEPART RENTED CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE MAY 30 FOR PARIS AND THEN LONDON. THE PLANS OF HIS STAFF MEMBERS (REFTEL A) CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE NOT YET FIRM.

3. IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION, AMBASSADOR VAN-LOC TALKED ABOUT DONATING OFFICE AND RESIDENCE FURNITURE AND SUPPLIES TO HIS FRIENDS IN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY AMERICAN S AND KOREAN EMBASSIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, HE WAS APPRISED OF THE ALGERIAN NOTE TO GOIC FOREIGN MINISTRY PROPOSING TO TAKE OVER PROVISIONAL MANAGEMENT OF ALL PROPERTIES, DOCUMENTS, FINANCES, ETC., OF THE VIETNAMESE MISSION IN ABIDJAN (REFTEL B) THEREFORE, ON MAY 15 HE SUBMITTED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO GOIC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTING MINISTRY'S DECISION ON WHETHER IT WOULD TAKE OVER THESE PROPERTIES FOR TRANSFER TO THE ALGERIAN EMBASSY OR WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO ALGERIAN EMBASSY. AS OF COB MAY 20 HE HAD NOT RECIEVED A REPLY. I AM TRYING TO HELP HIM TO GET THAT REPLY.

4. AS CONCERNS THE VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL OF THE EMBASSY, HE HAS REQUESTED GOIC FOREIGN MINISTRY TO AGREE TO LET HIM UTILIZE SOME OF THE REMAINING FUNDS TO PROVIDE THEM WITH AIRLINE TICKETS FROM IVORY OCAST TO VIETNAM. FYI AS OF NOW NONE OF THEM WOULD CHOOSE TO GO TO VIETNAM BUT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO CASH IN THESE TICKETS OR USE THEM TO GO ELSEWHERE. END FYI. HE ALSO HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY TO THIS REQUEST.

5. IN VIEW OF DISCOURAGING INDICATIONS FROM PARIS, WHERE HIS WIFE IS CURRENTLY VISITING HIS BROTHER, THAT FRENCH WOULD NOT RECEIVE VAN-LOCS ON PERMANENT BASIS (REFTEL C TENDS TO CONFIRM THIS) HE HAS APPLIED TO UK FOR ASYLUM. THREE OF HIS CHILDREN HAVE BEEN STUDYING IN ENGLAND FOR SEVERAL YEARS. BRITISH AMBASSADOR GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO THIS REQUEST BUT, AS OF MAY 20, HAD ONLY RECEIVED NONCOMMITAL RESPONSE FROM LONDON, WHERE THEY ARE ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT VAN-LOC'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY AND WHETHER HE HAS ANY OTHER LINKS TO UK.

6. IF VAN-LOC IS TURNED DOWN BY UK, HE WILL COME BACK TO US FOR ASYLUM IN U.S.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE US WHAT WE CAN TELL HIM.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

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